GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:139
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
CONSUMER MOVEMENT
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past, consumer movement in the country has received a tremendous boost due to consumer courts, media and consumer cooperative organisations;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government to give further boost to consumer movement;

(c) whether several organisations of traders, both wholesale, retail and middlemen are trying to weaken the consumer movement in the country; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to break these cartels?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 139 2.3.2001.

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. However, the growth of the consumer movement is an ongoing process and continuous efforts are being undertaken by the Central and State Governments, Consumer Courts, voluntary organizations and others to spreadthe consumer awareness and consumer movement in the country.

Government have decided to assist the Voluntary Consumer Organisationsfrom the Consumer Welfare Fund, to set up of District Information Centre in each district to disseminate useful information for the support and guidance of the consumers. Government is also taking up publicity measures through audio, video and print media to generate consumer awareness. Government proposes to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 for quicker disposal of cases in the consumer disputes redressal forums for better protection of the interests of consumers.

(c) and (d): Government is not aware of alleged activities said to being undertaken by the organizations of traders, both wholesale and retail, and middlemen to weaken the consumer movement in the country. However, Government monitors the open market prices of selected essential commodities regularly, keeps liaison with State Governments for prevention of blackmarketing, if any, by traders and watches the supply of selected essential goods to the consumers in the open market on a continuous basis.